

HOUSE RESOLUTION 94

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Vicie Motz upon being named as the 2009 Mother of the Year by the Tennessee Justice Center.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Vicie Motz of Greeneville, who was recently named as the 2009 Mother of the Year by the Tennessee Justice Center, a Nashville-based, non-profit, public interest law and advocacy firm devoted to serving Tennessee families; and

WHEREAS, the honor is being given in recognition of Vicie Motz's persistence in battling to obtain medical services for her adopted son and for her extraordinary commitment to the health care of all children and families; and

WHEREAS, the mother of three adopted special needs children, Ms. Motz first contacted the Tennessee Justice Center to request assistance for her twelve-year-old son, Trevor, a non-ambulatory and non-verbal child who had been relying on full-time nursing care at home for three years; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2008, Trevor's in-home nursing care benefits were unexpectedly reduced by the TennCare program by more than half; and

WHEREAS, fighting for her fragile son who uses an overhead lift system to move and a percussion vest simply to breathe, Ms. Motz contacted the Tennessee Justice Center and told them of Trevor's needs and of the recent funding cut; and

WHEREAS, in response to Ms. Motz's request, the Tennessee Justice Center, which frequently advocates for the rights of TennCare recipients, wrote a letter asking TennCare to

provide Trevor with the nursing care his doctor had prescribed; just days later, Trevor's care was reinstated; and

WHEREAS, Vicie Motz also enlisted the Justice Center's help overcoming a TennCare policy that appeared to prevent her from leaving the house on short errands while her three wheelchair-bound children were at home with their nurses; and

WHEREAS, seeing how difficult it was for Ms. Motz to run by the grocery store or to the library with all three children in wheelchairs, the Justice Center wrote another letter to TennCare about this apparent violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act; the State immediately clarified the rule, allowing Ms. Motz and other parents like her, to leave their homes for short periods while their children are in the care of nurses; and

WHEREAS, the people at the Center were inspired by Vicie Motz's unwavering devotion to her children and her persistence in fighting for what they needed; the Center released a statement that described Ms. Motz as an example of how "Tennessee mothers—and grandmothers—bravely stand up for the rights of their children who are sick or have disabilities"; and

WHEREAS, Michele Johnson, Managing Attorney at the Tennessee Justice Center, said, "Our annual Mothers of the Year recognition is a way to acknowledge their struggles, sacrifices, and devotion to their children"; and

WHEREAS, Vicie Motz exudes humility and was extremely surprised when she learned that she would receive the honor of being named Mother of the Year; she said, "It's quite exciting, but I never thought that I did anything that any mother would not do. You just do what you have to do to get your kids what they need"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Motz daily gains strength from the memory of her late husband, Ron, who passed away in 2003; and their late son, Tyler, a special needs child who she and Ron adopted, who passed away in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Trevor, she is the proud mother of Angel and Hunter, both of whom are five years old; and

WHEREAS, Vicie Motz will receive the Mother of the Year Award during a special ceremony on May 7, 2009, in the Nashville office of Stites and Harbison law firm; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Motz is a deeply loving and persistent mother who works assiduously to ensure that her children are provided for, regardless of the circumstances; she gives of herself to improve their quality of life, and she is most deserving of the 2009 Mother of the Year Award from the Tennessee Justice Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Vicie Motz for her meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, congratulate her upon being named as the 2009 Mother of the Year by the Tennessee Justice Center, and extend to her our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.